



Congressman Tim Bishop

FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK

NEWS RELEASE

MAY 1, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: DOUG DODSON

PHONE: (202) 225-3826

BISHOP HELPS SECURE \$700,000 FOR STONY BROOK VETERANS

Veterans Home Receives Long-Delayed Medicare Appeal

Stony Brook—Congressman Tim Bishop (D-Southampton) today announced that the Long Island State Veterans Home (LISVH) located at SUNY-Stony Brook will receive \$700,000 in costs long claimed by the nursing home. The funds had been denied because the Medicare intermediary, Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield had wrongly applied a lower level of costs to the reimbursement. The appeal was filed in 1995 and was related to reimbursement from 1993.

Bishop intervened on behalf of LISVH with Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Administrator Thomas Scully, urging him not to challenge a ruling that the home should receive the funds.

“Now more than ever, it is vital that we stand up for our veterans and give them the support they need,” Bishop said. “Although this money is a decade late, it will help meet many vital needs to help improve care for our veterans.”

“With recent cuts to both Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement, the dollars won in this appeal will help us to continue to provide quality care to our veterans,” Fred S. Sganga, Executive Director of LISVH said. “I want to personally thank Congressman Bishop for his advocacy on behalf of the Long Island State Veterans Home.”

On February 26, 2003, the Provider Reimbursement Review Board (PRRB), an administrative agency that decides Medicare Part A cases, issued a decision in favor of LISVH. On March 26, LISVH received notification that Scully was reviewing that decision and if he had challenged the ruling, it would have delayed the funding even further. LISVH will receive the check in the near future.

“Patience is one thing, but after 10 years, enough is enough,” Bishop said. “I am very glad that this funding will not be further delayed.”

LISVH is a 350-bed academic skilled nursing facility with a 50-slot adult day care program. The facility takes great pride in serving more than 2,500 men and women who valiantly risked their lives in defense of our nation. Its residents have come from all walks of life, represented all branches of service and fought in virtually every major conflict.

#